AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A stud to plate tie connection (1) in a wall in a wood frame structure (2) comprising:

a. a base plate (3) having an upper face (4), a lower face (5), and an edge face (6);

b. a top plate (7) having an upper face (8), a lower face (9), and an edge face (10);

c. an elongated stud (11) having sides (12) and an edge face (13) therebetween and having an upper end (14) in abutting registration with said lower face (9) of said top plate (7) and a lower end (15) in abutting registration with said upper face (4) of said base plate (3);

d. a first stud to plate tie connector (16) having:

i. an edge member (17);

ii. a face member (18) connected to said edge member (17) and projecting at a right angle thereto ~~for~~ engaging said lower face (5) of said base plate (3); and

iii. a plurality of fasteners (19) passing through said edge member (17) into said edge face (13) of said stud (11) and into said edge face (6) of said base plate (3); and

e. a second stud to plate tie connector (20) identical to said first stud to plate tie connector (16) having:

i. an edge member (21);

ii. a face member (22) connected to said edge member (21) and projecting at a right angle thereto ~~for~~ engaging said upper face (8) of said top plate (7); and

iii. a plurality of fasteners (19) passing through said edge member (21) into said edge face (13) of said stud (11) and into said edge face (10) of said top plate (7).

2. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 1 wherein:

a. said first stud to plate tie connector (16) has fastener openings (23) in said edge member (17); and

b. said second stud to plate tie connector (20) has fastener openings (24) in said edge member (21).

3. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 2 wherein:

a. said fastener openings (23) in said edge member (17) of said first stud to plate tie (16) are spaced so that when said face member (18) of said first stud to plate tie (16) engages said lower face (5) of said base plate (4) at least one of said plurality of fasteners (19) passes through one of said fastener openings (23) in said edge member (17) directly into said edge face (13) of said stud (11) and at least one of said plurality of fasteners (19) passes through one of said fastener openings (23) in said edge member (17) directly into said base plate (3);

b. said fastener openings (24) in said edge member (21) of said second stud to plate tie (20) are spaced so that when said face member (22) of said second stud to plate tie (20) engages said upper face (8) of said top plate (7) at least one of said plurality of fasteners (19) passes through one of said fastener openings (24) in said edge member (21) directly into said edge face (13) of said stud (11) and at least one of said plurality of fasteners (19) passes through one of said fastener openings (24) in said edge member (21) directly into said top plate (7).

4. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 3 wherein:

a. at least four of said plurality of fasteners (19) pass through said fastener openings (23) in said edge member (17) of said first stud to plate tie (16) into said stud (11); and

b. at least four of said plurality of fasteners (19) pass through said fastener openings (24) in said edge member (21) of said second stud to plate tie (20) into said stud (11).

5. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 4 wherein:

a. said first stud to plate tie connector (16) additionally comprises reinforcing embossments (25) in said edge member (17); and

b. said second stud to plate tie connector (20) additionally comprises reinforcing embossments (26) in said edge member (21).

6. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 5 wherein:

a. said first stud to plate tie connector (16) additionally comprises reinforcing embossments (27) in said face member (18); and

b. said second stud to plate tie connector (20) additionally comprises reinforcing embossments (28) in said face member (22).

7. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 6 wherein:

a. said reinforcing embossments (25) in said edge member (17) and said reinforcing embossments (27) in said face member (18) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) are connected and continuous; and

b. said reinforcing embossments (26) in said edge member (21) and said reinforcing embossments (28) in said face member (22) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20) are connected and continuous.

8. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 7 wherein:

a. one of said top plate (7) and said base plate (3) is a double ply of wood.

9. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 8 wherein:

a. at least two of said plurality of fasteners (19) enter said double ply of wood.

10. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 9 wherein:

a. said edge member (17) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) is substantially the same width as said edge face (13) of said stud (11); and

b. said edge member (21) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20) is substantially the same width as said edge face (13) of said stud (11).

11. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 10 wherein:
    a. said face member (18) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) does not extend beyond said lower face (5) of said base plate (3); and
    b. said face member (22) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20) does not extend beyond said upper face (8) of said top plate (7).
12. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 11 wherein:
    a. said plurality of fasteners (19) are nails.
13. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 12 wherein:
    a. said elongated stud (11) is a double ply of wood.
14. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 13 wherein:
    a. said edge member (17) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) has a visual guide (29) for centrally aligning said first stud to plate tie connector (16) on said double ply stud (11); and
    b. said edge member (21) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20) has a visual guide (30) for centrally aligning said second stud to plate tie connector (20) on said double ply stud (11).
15. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 3 wherein:
    a. said first stud to plate tie connector (16) additionally comprises visual indicia (31) to indicate which fastener openings (23) must be used when fastening to a base plate (4) of a given dimension; and
    b. said second stud to plate tie connector (20) additionally comprises visual indicia (32) to indicate which fastener openings (24) must be used when fastening to a top plate (7) of a given dimension.
16. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 15 wherein:
    a. said visual indicia (31) in said first stud to plate tie connector (16) are two different shapes of said fastener openings (23) in said edge member (17) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16); and

b. said visual indicia (32) in said second stud to plate tie connector (20) are two different shapes of said fastener openings (24) in said edge member (21) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20).

17. (original) A method of forming the stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 1 comprising:

a. placing said edge member (17) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) against said edge face (13) of said stud (11) and said edge face (6) of said base plate (3);

b. placing said face member (18) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) against said lower face (5) of said base plate (3);

c. driving at least one of said plurality of fasteners (19) through said edge member (17) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) into said edge face (13) of said stud (11) and driving at least one of said plurality of fasteners (19) through said edge member (17) into said edge face (6) of said base plate (3);

d. placing said edge member (21) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20) against said edge face (13) of said stud (11) and said edge face (10) of said top plate (7);

e. placing said face member (22) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20) against said upper face (8) of said top plate (7); and

f. driving at least one of said plurality of fasteners (19) through said edge member (21) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20) into said edge face (13) of said stud (11) and driving at least one of said plurality of fasteners (19) through said edge member (21) into said edge face (10) of said top plate (7).

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein:

a. <u>said stud to plate tie connection 1 includes an underlying structural member and</u> said base plate (3) rests on an underlying structural member (33); and

b. said face member (18) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) is driven between said base plate (3) and said underlying structural member (33).

19. (orginal) The method of claim 18 wherein:

a. said underlying structural member (33) is a subfloor member.

20. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein:

a. said underlying structural member (33) is a cementitious member.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein:

a. said cementitious member is a concrete foundation.

22. (currently amended) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 16 wherein:

a. a. said first stud to plate tie connector (16) additionally comprises reinforcing embossments (25) in said edge member (17);

b. said second stud to plate tie connector (20) additionally comprises reinforcing embossments (26) in said edge member (21);

c. [a.] said reinforcing embossments (25) in said edge member (17) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) extend at least as far from said face member (18) as the one of said fastener openings (23) in said edge member (17) closest to said face member (18); and

d. [b.] said reinforcing embossments (26) in said edge member (21) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20) extend at least as far from said face member (22) as the one of said fastener openings (24) in said edge member (21) closest to said face member (22).

23. (original) A stud to plate tie connection (1) as described in claim 22 wherein:

a. said face member (18) of said first stud to plate tie connector (16) is at least one quarter the width of said lower face (5) of said base plate (3) as measured from the edge member (17) to the opposite side of said face member (18); and

b. said face member (22) of said second stud to plate tie connector (20) is at least one quarter the width of said upper face (8) of said top plate (7) as measured from the edge member (21) to the opposite side of said face member (22).